tribal artefacts and promotion of tribal culture. A provision of Rs. 2.60 crore has been kept under the scheme for the year 2005-06.

ST status to tea garden labour community in Assam

1319. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

whether there is a proposal for granting ST status to the Adivasis (Tea Garden Labour Community) and Koch-Rajbanshis of Assam; and

if so, whether there is any Bill proposed to be tabled in the current Winter Session of the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PR. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes, Sir. The approved modalities for inclusion/exclusion of any community in the list of Scheduled Tribes under Article 342 of the Constitution require consultation with various agencies such as State Government, Registrar General of India and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, which takes time.

(b) No, Sir.

Deaths due to malnutrition in tribal areas

1320.SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

whether Government are aware of the death of thousands of children in the tribal areas of various States, especially Maharashtra due to malnutrition related problems;

if so, the details thereof including the number of such deaths in tribal areas, reported during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

the action taken for controlling the above; and

whether any policy decision has been taken or proposed to be taken to save tribal children from this complex situation?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PR. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The figures relating to death of children due to malnutrition, if any, in various regions including tribal regions of a State/UT, are maintained by the concerned State/UT Governments. The deaths of children, including tribals, due to various factors, including malnutrition, in Melghat and

Vidarbha region of Maharashtra have been reported. The causing factors *inter-alia* also include early child bearing inadequate spacing between children, multiple pregnancies, etc.

(c) and (d) Central Government has taken various steps to improve the delivery of services under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, being implemented by Department of Women & Child Development. ICDS has been expanded to cover 456 additional projects and 1.88 lakh additional Anganwadi Centres. The Central Government has emphasized convergence of services under various schemes/programmes such as health, eduction, safe drinking water etc., and States/UTs have been requested to activate Coordination Committees at State, District, Block and Village level to ensure proper delivery of services at Anganwadis. To motivate Anganwadi workers, their *honoraria* has been doubled and a scheme of Anganwadi Karyakartri Beema Yojana has been introduced.

For Maharashtra specifically, 44 additional projects and 12,864 Anganwadi Centres have been sanctioned. The Central Government has requested the State Government to relocate some of the new centres in the tribal regions of Melghat and Vidarbha and to ensure effective implementation of ICDS Scheme. The Central Government has also requested the State Government to come up with their proposals in case any additional assistance is necessary. The State Government of Maharashtra has taken some initiatives like Maternity Grant Scheme, Swayamsevak Yojana, Bharari Pathak Yojana, Door Delivery Scheme for Foodgrains and Operation "Kama" to face the problem of child death in these tribal regions.

These efforts are also being supplemtned by enhanced food supply by Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution through schemes like Targetted Public Distribution System, Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Mid Day Meal Scheme, Village Grain Bank Scheme, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme etc.

Primitive tribal groups in Rajasthan

1321.DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

the details of the primitive tribal groups in Rajasthan;

whether Government have initiated any area specific schemes for welfare and development of these tribal groups;